



Skerries Parish Bulletin

No 2350

24th – 31st December 2023

The Joy and light of Christmas

*'In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God.....
The Word became flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory.'*

This is the opening lines from St. John's gospel which we proclaim on Christmas morning. We might ask why did the Word who was with God and was God choose to assume our humanity? Jesus suffers the cold in the manger at the beginning of his life and the cold of the tomb where he is placed after his death. He did this out of love for us his people. His life starts in the darkness of the stable and it ends in the darkness of the tomb. However the darkness does not overcome the light – Jesus rises from the dead that he might live in us always.



Looking over this past year we have seen and heard of many darkneses but we always have the light within us to bring hope and new possibilities – new light. *'A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.'*

Jesus arrival among us was announced by the angels with great light and joy. The Irish tradition of placing a candle in the window at this time of year is a welcome to Jesus and Mary to our homes. As we share this time we bring the same joy and light of 'God-with-us' wherever we may go and to whoever we meet.

Blessings of Christmas joy and peace.

Fr. Melvyn

ANNIVERSARY / SPECIAL INTENTION MASSES

- ✦ **Sat 23rd 10am:** Stacie Bailey (MM), Terry Tolan, Billy Ryan, Noel & Vera Morris (Rem), Lily McMahon (Rem), Anna McMahon, Mary McCormack
- ✦ **Sat 23rd 6pm:** Maura Hughes, George Hand (Rem), Henry & Florence Gavin (Rem), Harry Gavin (Rem), Denis Heraghty (Rem) Ann Murray, Ollie Shiels (RD)
- ✦ **Sun 24th 9.30am:** Una & Richard Murtagh, Eddie & Marge Moran, Sean Darcy, Cora & Mick Cannon,

- Thanksgiving Mass for all who supported the family of Aisling Kennedy Casey
- ✦ **Sun 24th 11am:** Edie (Edith) McMahon, Kitty & Walter Howlett & family, Paddy & May McMahon, Richard & Una Murtagh, Maureen Hayes, Esther Kelly, Tom & May Redmond (Rem)
- ✦ **Christmas Day 25th 9.30 & 11am:** Christmas Card Intentions
- ✦ **Tues 26th 11am:** Brian & Robert Beggs, Mary Browne (Rem), Maurice Mullins, Stephen & Kathleen Attley, John & Joan Mulvihill, Peter Kelly (Rem), Theresa McCloskey

- ✦ **Wed 27th 11am:** Ursula Gorman (MM), Ivan Heeney, Pat, Rose & Finian Murray (Rem), Brenda Murphy (Rem), Maeve Keenan (Rem), Maisie Grimes, Special Intention
- ✦ **Fri 29th 11am:** Richard Fanning & family (Rem), Alf Coleman, Patrick & Alice Harford, Brian Taylor (Rem), Taylor, McKenna & McElligott families, Larry & Eileen Cummins
- ✦ **Sat 30th 6pm:** Dolores Ferguson (1st A) & Tom Ferguson (A), Bill & Rita McMahon, John Mansfield, Josephine Jordan (Rem), Alan Wilde
- ✦ **Sun 31st 9.30am:** James Clarke, Evelyn Marshall, Mary McGirl, Desmond McGirl Jnr & Desmond McGirl Snr
- ✦ **Sun 31st 11am:** William Flanagan, Margaret Browne, John Nealon, Irene Nealon-Meinzolt, Kay & John Mulhere, Leo & Rosaleen Doolin, James & Katie McGirl

OUR SYMPATHY

To the families of **Ollie Shiels** who has died recently in New Zealand, **Anthony O'Leary**, Rush/Skerries, and **Michael (Tony) Collins**, Selskar Rise. May they Rest in Peace.

WE WELCOME

Róisín Carmody recently baptised into our parish family.

FEASTDAYS

24th Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve, 25th Dec: The Nativity of the Lord, 26th Dec: St Stephen, 27th Dec: St John, apostle, 28th Dec: The Holy Innocents, 31st Dec: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

CHRISTMAS MASS ARRANGEMENTS

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve:

Vigil Masses at 6pm (Family Mass) and 8pm.

Monday 25th Christmas Day:

Masses at 9.30am and 11.00am

Tues 26th St Stephen's Day:

Mass at 11.00am

Wed 27th – Sat 30th: Mass at 11.00am

Monday 1st January 2024 – Mary, The Holy Mother of God: Mass at 11.00am

CROSSCARE CHRISTMAS FOOD POVERTY APPEAL

Crosscare, the Archdiocese's social care agency, is seeking support for its Christmas Food Poverty Appeal. This year, they have worked with almost 1,000 families and their children. They have also revamped the Community Café in Portland Row in Dublin's North East Inner city, where they delivered over 5,000 nutritious meals. Any donation received will help the Food Poverty team help others move forward in life and enjoy the independence of supporting themselves. Anyone wishing to contribute can donate online at www.crosscare.ie, call 01 8360011, or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 St Mary's Place North, D07 Y768, Dublin.

BISHOPS REPORT ON THE SYNOD

The bishops full report from the synod held recently in Rome is available at www.synod.ie/bishopsreport.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

The club Executive wishes all our members, supporters and sponsors a very Happy Christmas. Congrats to our Club Senior players Adam Fearon, Greg McEaney & Killian McGinnis, who were presented with their All Ireland winners medals at a ceremony hosted in Croke Park! Winner of the BIG Christmas Draw is Peter Ellis – list of the 30 prize winners are on our Facebook Page. Charity games on St Stephens Day – ladies and gents Football at 10.30, Hurling/Camogie 12.30. Contact pro.skerriesharps.dublin@gaa.ie for details. Christmas Golf at Skerries GC on Fri 29 Dec. Contact Tony 087 6498177 for Tee times. Proceeds from both events to local branch of St Vincent de Paul society. Our Christmas Tree collection service runs again this year with tags only €5.50 available online. Trees will be collected on 6 January - Check our Social Media pages. Zingo for Sun 17 Dec. 7, 5, 2, 1, 3, 4. 6 No winners. Jackpot now €5,500. Next draw in Club on Tues 26 Dec at 6 pm. Join us for some festive cheer and free in-house draw or play online at www.skerriesharps.ie/zingo



BULLETIN TEAM wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peace and Joy throughout 2024.

RCN: 20016166